trend during the last six months;

(b) if so, the extent of increase;

(c) the reasons for rise in imports; and

(d) the steps Government have taken/ propose to take to curb imporits

THE MINISTER OF COM (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDEH, and (b) As per the provisIONAL CAP received from Directorate Genera. Commercial Intelligence & Statistues (DGCI&S), the imports have registeicd growth of 10.06% in dollar terms and 27.75% in rupee terms during

Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System

799. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether food processing units like meat and processed food and vegetable exporters are facing difficulty in implementing two of the seven principles of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take up the matter under the W.T.O.'s Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Pact; and

(c) the other measures proposed to help Indian food processing units which are finding it difficult to implement the system?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The smaller units on their own, are finding it difficult to implement Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) System, especially in regard to the following principles:

i. Verification

ii. Documentation

(b) The issue has been taken up at the meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (the Committee responsible for formulating the Standard on HACCP) and it has been projected by the Indian delegation that a standard needs to be developed on "HACCP like systems in small businesses with reference to developing countries" which would contain basically all the principles of HACCP with modifications in respect of
weriffiontion and documoention

(c) Sonic of the meaxes proposed to help the Indin food procesing industry to way men Plesad Answere Critical Govrnment Policy (HECL) system are as under:-

1. Awareness and training programmes to assist the Indian industry in implementing the systems.
2. Group projects are being taken up for implementing HACCP in smaller units.
3. Modules on HACCP are being developed in different sectors which would assist the smaller manufacturers to use the as guidelines for implementing HACCP systems.
4. Export units are being assisted in building up their testing facilities. For this purpose, test modules containing the parameters required to be tested, methods of tests, equipment required and source of equipment are being developed.
5. Consultants within the country are also being given the training so that they can be utilised by the industry for implementing HACCP.

Default in Payment of Wages by T.T.C.I.

800. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been default in payment of wages over months in Tea Trading Corporation of India, Calcutta; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a)

and (b) Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI), a wholly owned subsidiary of STC, is facing an acute financial crunch being a loss making Company and has been unable to discharge its obligations. The total liability of the Company is estimated around Rs. 36 crores as on 31/1/97. The Corporation considered the following options:—

(i) Outright sale of the shares of the Corporation;

(ii) Bifurcation of the existing Company in case (i) is not found possible; and

(iii) STC to initiate liquidation proceedings in case options (i) & (ii) above are not found practicable.

TTCI has been unable to implement the options at (i) & (ii) above.

Exhibition Centres

801. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to set up permanent exhibition centres modelled on New Delhi's Pragati Maidan in various State Capitals to host trade fairs and exhibitions round the year to help generate business opportunities in the globalisation process;

(b) if so, the detailed highlights of the scheme;

(c) the present status of implementation of the scheme and the action plan for the current year; and

(d) the response of State Government to the proposal, particularly from Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) The Central Govt. is not setting up permanent exhibition centres in various State capitals. However, the Govt. is encouraging State Govt. to undertake such ventures for helping regional industrial units in exposure of their products. The proposal is that such projects would be in the nature of joint ventures between India Trade Promotion Organisation and the State Governments with the land and infrastructure being provided by the latter and technical expertise and management services to be rendered by ITPO. Commercial revenue would be shared by ITPO with the State Govts. in a manner to be mutually determined.

ITPO is working out the modalities of the scheme.

The Central Govt. had written to the State Govts. of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal. While the State Govts. of Karnataka, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu have responded positively, the response of the State Govt. of Maharashtra has not been received so far.

Import of Sugar from Pakistan

802. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has purchased sugar from Pakistan during the last six months; and

(b) if so, the quantity of sugar purchased and the total amount and price per tonne paid?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the Total quantity and value of sugar imported from Pakistan during the period April—September 1998 was 300206 tonnes valued at Rs. 38726.11 lakhs (@ Rs. 12899/- per tonne C.I.F. basis).

(SOURCE: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

मुक्त व्यापार क्षेत्र की स्थापना किया जाना

803. श्रीमती सरोज दुबे: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार बंगलादेश, भूटान, नेपाल और